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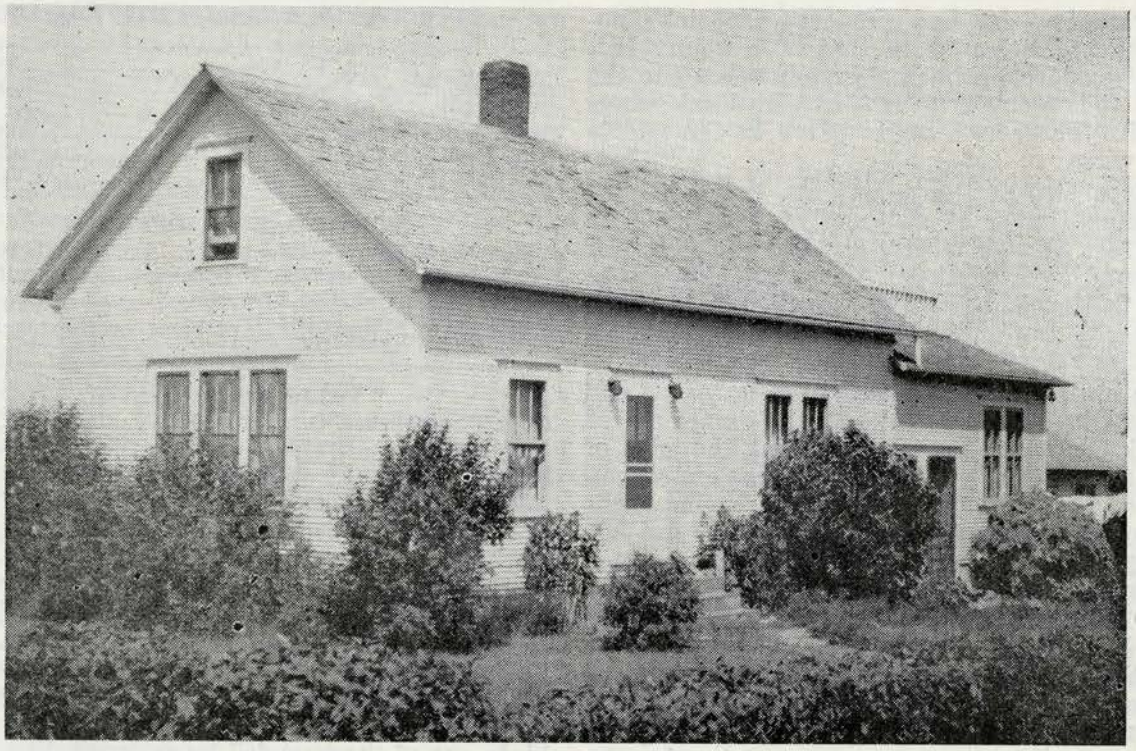

Residence of Mr. Paul Elford, Roscoe, S. D., showing nice plantings of South Dakota shrubbery.

NORTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE SOUTH DAKOTA

Jan. 1948

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CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

By
O. A. Stevens

O. A. Stevens

The famous explorers, Lewis and Clark, are commemorated in Lewis's woodpecker (See Dec. 1935 issue) and Clark's nutcracker. The latter was first mentioned by Captain Clark as a new species of woodpecker seen along the lower part of the Columbia River. The first description was given by Alexander Wilson, who had talked with members of the party and had seen the skin which they brought back. He called it "Clark's crow."

A recent writer has compared the bird's appearance and behavior to that of a young red-headed woodpecker, but it is really related to the crows. It is a stocky gray bird with black wings and tail. There is a white patch in the middle of the wing.

It is a bird of the mountains, living in pine and spruce timber at altitudes of from 3,000 to 12,000 feet, though mostly at 6,000 to 8.000 feet. It is found from southern Alaska and Alberta to Lower California, east to the Black Hills in South Dakota. A few individuals have been found in the plains region from Manitoba to Louisiaa.

The birds are wary during nesting season and few nests have been found. The nests are placed in thick coniferous trees, often near the ends of branches. They are well built of twigs and warmly lined, for egg laying is early. Young birds were found in Colorado nests in March and April. Two eggs appear most commonly. They are a gray or geenish, with a few fine specks of brown and are about an inch and a quarter long.

M. P. Skinner reported that in Yellowstone Park the eggs were laid between February 28 and March 3. The young left the nest by May 5 and there was no evidence of a second brood.

The nutcrackers eat a great variety of material but show a preference for seeds of pinyon pine. These and the seeds of other coniferous trees, they extract from the cones, sometimes while the cones are on the trees. Sometimes they peck the cone loose and carry it to some other place. The seeds are swallowed without removing the shells.

Mrs. Irene Wheelock reported seeing pine seeds shelled at the nest before they were given to the young. Another writer recorded young birds out of the nest fed by regurgitation. From California is a report of one bird with 65 and another 72 pine seeds in its throat. A Colorado report states that masses of the pinyon shells are found in the stomachs.

During the summer the birds feed largely upon insects of various kinds. In winter they often come into towns at lower altitudes and pick up grain in the streets, or kitchen scraps from

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NEWSLANTS

By
Harry A. Graves

H. A. Graves

"Silent Wings" is the title of a new book published by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. The edition is limited and the topic is really a memorial to the passenger pigeon, now extinct. Copies may be secured for $1.00 from Walter Scott, Mendota Beach Heights, Madison 5, Wisconsin.

According to a note in The Chicago Packer which, in turn, had taken it from The Chicago Journal of Commerce, children are not yet classified with yachts and sable coats as luxury items. Nevertheless, it costs 50% more to bring up a child in moderate income American family today than it did ten years ago.

Ten years ago a $2,500 a year family spent nearly $10,000 to raise a child to the age of 18. Today the same child would cost $15,000 from the family budget.

We have had a letter from Edward Lowden, nurseryman of Hamilton, Ontario, regarding the Sunrise raspberry. Mr. Lowden says, in part, "We would not think of growing any quantity of the Sunrise here for fruit. With us the variety Gatineau will outyield Sunrise three or four times and sell better but probably it is not hardy enough for Dakota." Mr. Lowden has been a member of the N. D. Society for some years.

According to The Seed World, a recession is a period in which you tighten your belt; in a depression you have no belt to tighten and when you have no pants to hold up, then it becomes a panic.

Our questionnaire on the Sunrise raspberries has brought us some information we did not expect. The card that was sent to Mr. C. F. Pruefert of Cleremont, Florida, was returned to us by a stranger saying that Mr. Pruefert had died some months ago. Mr. Pruefert was a former North Dakota resident and life member of the N. D. Society. He wrote us interesting letters once or twice a year and often commented on how he missed the peonies which did not do well for them in Florida. We shall miss his letters although we had never met him personally.

Five years ago a mechanical sugar beet machine was a rarity. In 1946 approximately 2,200 of these machines harvested 18% of the sugar beet crop in the United States. In the harvesting season of 1947 it was expected that this percentage would double.

Tulip fans should mark down this address: The National Tulip Society, Inc., which headyuarters in Room 1100, 37 W. 43rd St., New York 18, N. Y. We are continually receiving letters from people asking us the address of various flower societies. The increased growth of interest in tulip culture has been responsible for the organization of this new national tulip society. Plans have been made for a comprehensive program covering the issue of regular publications, holding of exhibitions, exchange of speakers, giving of specimen awards and the setting up of judging standards and the betterment of trade relations.

Japanese agricultural experts report increases of from 50 to 300% yield from summer crops in the atom bomb Nagasaki area. The wheat crop was reported about twice normal yield and the cotton crop about three times average. Sweet potatoes planted at the end of May were ready for harvesting at the end of July. Pumpkins, sugar beets, eggplants, tomatoes and similar produce showed a 50% increase over previous production.

During the months of July, August and September, 1947, bears have been a real problem on the east shore of Flathead Lake in Western Montana, almost threatening to dispossess orchardists and growers. Fruits grown in this Flathead Lake area of Montana are sweet cherries, apricots, peaches, pears and apples. Visitors to our national parks think that bears are cute but orchardists in this Flathead Lake area think otherwise, when they find one of their fine fruit trees torn to pieces by bears, all of this according to the November issue of The American Fruit Grower.

Dr. Yeager has been at it again, according to the November issue of The Farm Journal. The article quoted directly from the horticulture section of that magazine goes as follows: "If you think you are as cool as a cucumber, guess again. Dr. A. F. Yeager, University of New Hampshire horticulturist, has been taking cucumbers' temperatures. He reports that at times cukes are 20° hotter under the skin than the temperature of the surrounding air. If you want to be as cool as something, be as cool as a squash. Dr. Yeager found squash were 8° cooler under the skin than the air around them."

In either the February or March issues, depending on how soon spring fever hits us, we will try to give you a list of the vegetables planned for the 1948 Demonstration Gardens. This

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GARDEN NOTES

By

W. E. H. Porter

W. E. H. Porter

At this season one takes a sort of inventory of the many friendships, formed personally and by correspondence, with all those enthusiasts who have a mutual interest in gardening matters, with the determination to build up a home worthy of the name, where residence affords a happiness that fades not Such bonds, tho invisible, only death can sever, and so, greetings and good luck to all our fellow members. Continuing from last month: Oct. 31st. Cooler, and steady rain from Northwest; 20,000 geese said to be converging on Devils Lake. A Copy of Countryman tells of the scarcity and in many places, disappearance of the wasp in England; unseasonable late heavy May frosts considered as the cause. I remember when during a picnic, these pests would swarm over everything and even indoors, sitting down on your plate and helping themselves, and woe betide you if you brushed them off. It is said that only the badgers regret this scarcity, as they systematically raid the nests. Manchester Guardian records a cuckoo, seen in south Lancaster on the 8th of Oct., very late; the old rhyme says, "In August, go he must." Nov. 11. Last week's south winds with fog and drizzle, was autumn's last dying gasp. Radio tells of snow and blowing snow at Churchill, Manitoba, and here, roaring north wind for 3 days and nights, round the clock freezing with a night drop to 9, and last night, an inch or so of snow, on the 4th. I noticed clusters of pink and white Christmas roses coming into flower, the temp. was 44 but this charming thing is a winter flower that frost does not damage, tho wet snow can. Plant was set years ago, selected by my wife, to remember her home in Ireland, where it was a favorite flower and this is the first time it has flowered; wonder if there is any other record of such in North Dakota. Today they hang their graceful heads and close up as a protection against such inclemency and tho the arctic dwarf birch still retains its foliage, under the snow, the beautiful Mrs. Childers aster, that glory of the garden for all of October, is ruined beyond recovery and autumn crocuses lie prone. Indoors new flowers continue to push thru, truly one of our best lilies, in fact at present, no other blooms graces the window sill, this however, is compensated by colorful foliage of zonal leaved geraniums, spring green of maiden hair fern, mother of pearl sheen of that Mexican succulent Graphtopetalum which never seems to flower. Also the graceful arching thin wiry branching of Pearce's new Texas Oenothera, which growth is rigid, and in no sense floppy. Of all things, floppiness, especially in a house plant, is an offense that cannot be condoned; my wife would aptly term it "a strong weakness," and if that is an "Irish bull" then let's thank God for the Irish. There seems to be three distinct types of Evening Primrose, the tall yellow spiked biennis, grows like a hollyhock, and used to be rather a troublesome week in grain fields and now appears to have completely disappeared, also Missouriensis, the creeping type with glossy leaves almost stemless and showy, yellow or white flowers large as a teacup, and the branching, arching type, much like a dwarf clematis, with a pink or white fragrant bloom. When sod-busting on the prairie with a 14-inch foot burner and 3 horses, we would find the species pallida, representing this letter type quite locally abundant, with white fragrant flowers and somewhat silvered foliage, and would gather bunches for house decoration and scent. Civilization seems to be too much for it and it is years since I have seen it. The Texas primrose belongs to this category. Following a hurried and helpful description of some of the types, Farrar says: "That the family, its relationships and differences, are still wrapped in impenetrable mystery, so that true definite, finally established species are not, by any means easy to come by, in a group of plants as polymorphic as a range of clouds at sundown." To say more is superfluous. Nov. 20th. It has now been snowing, on and off, for almost a week, with steady wind from east and still coming, a depth of around 8 or 9 inches on the level; we are just about snowed in. This is the day of the much heralded royal wedding; one pities the poor princess a victim of all that pomp; the Russians did her a real service by ignoring it. I am giving myself a real Christmas present in the form of a small silver variegated leaf potted holly tree. To see my window sills and other places cluttered up with house plants to say nothing of all those up and coming winter flowering bulbs, a visitor would be amazed at such a selection. A concession, perhaps to the past where memory lingers over a large golden leaved holly bush in the old home of long ago; in the twilight of life such thots are very vivid at this season. The massed evergreen decorations and an all pervading fragrance of arbor vitia in home and church and when

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MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By
W. R. Leslie

W. R. Leslie

SUGAR MAPLE is a tree of first interest in Canada as its leaf was adopted long ago as the national floral emblem. Unfortunately, this beautiful tree—esteemed for its value as a stately ornamental shade tree, for its wavy-grained furniture wood, and for its sugary sap—is a native to only a part of the country. Although it grows as far south as Georgia it fails to extend far north in Canada. The western boundary of its native range appears to be in the Thunder Bay Hills flanking Lake Superior.

The beaver obviously is an appropriate choice of an animal emblem for Canada as it is at home in all provinces and thrives far into the north. Seeing the Sugar Maple leaf is the chief recognized emblem of our country it has seemed obligatory that the different strains be explored to ascertain the one possessing most promise for successful prairie culture.

Tests made at Morden reveal that trees raised from seed obtained in Southern Ontario and Quebec are too tender to escape injury during severe winters. Seedlings from Thunder Bay Hills, near Fort William, Ontario, are doing well and produce crops of seed, unless weather is adverse for the spring blossoms. However, a strain from northwestern Minnesota is expected to prove superior, as through the ages the parent trees have been subjected to prairie heat and rather low moisture supply. At the end of the third week of September seed was gathered from select native trees east of Moorhead, Minnesota. Considerable seed was harvested from two station trees of Thunder Bay parentage. Seed was shared with kindred Experimental Stations across the prairies, also with universities and forest services. It is hoped that resulting seedlings will prosper, and more widely and fully than heretofore Canada will be the Land of the Maple.

Whereas the Silver Maple ripens its seed in May or early June, the seed of Sugar Maple ripens in late summer. This season the seed samaras did not commence to drop until about the end of September. Seed of Sugar Maple, in dry storage, does not long retain its power to germinate. It is sown in late summer as soon as ripe. The local practice is to plant the seed in late September or early October in prepared seed frames at a depth of about one-half inch. The loam soil is mellowed with considerable granulated acid peat. The frame at freeze-up time is strewn with leaves. Next spring lath frames or brush will provide partial shade until the seedlings gain stature and strong roots.

Comment is here presented on some other maples planted on the Canadian prairies:

Two are natives. One is the Boxelder, frequently called locally the Manitoba Maple. The other is the Mountain Maple, which is a large shrub of considerable beauty, found inter-mingled with conifers in eastern and northern Manitoba. Boxelder grows rapidly, is a source of syrup and sugar and is often used in shelterbelt plantings. It is less desirable than Green ash or elm; is very subjert to aphids and other insects, and its seed results in many weed trees springing up in shrub and tree plantations. The Mountain maple appears to desire acid soil for its best development. The seeds and autumn foliage are decorative.

Silver Maple is found in woodlands in nearby Ontario. The deeply lobed leaves, bright green above and silvery beneath, are attractive. In autumn they become yellow. Northern strains are hardy and seedlings soon become spreading trees. Seeds ripen in late spring and germinate promptly. A useful tree in Southern Manitoba but the rather brittle wood may be broken in ice storms.

Red Maple is usually a denizen of the swamps. Its name is derived from the brilliant color of its flowers which precede the leaves. Autumn scarlet and yellow foliage is more highly colored here than that of the Sugar Maple. It probably prefers more acid than it finds in our limey prairie soils.

Rocky Mountain Maple is a clean-cut small tree with handsome acutely-lobed leaves, native from Alaska to Wyoming. Strains from the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta are doing well in Manitoba. Autumn leaves become bright yellow. This distinctive maple deserves wider planting.

Norway Maple is a large tree from North and Eastern Europe which is suggestive of Sugar maple in outline. The foliage is bright green on both surfaces, turning yellow in late autumn. There are forms with foliage that is dark red most of the summer. Some fair specimens are found in Manitoba, but the Norway Maple may be considered somewhat prone to winter injury in heavy winters.

Moosewood or Striped Maple, although native to Ontario and Wisconsin, failed to establish well at Morden.

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GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By
Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen

Mrs. Jorgensen

November is the traditional "thank you" month, but as long as you are making New Year resolutions why not stop and take stock of the things of nature for which we might well pause to give thanks? The following responsive reading has been thumbed over in the "Gleanings" memorandum every month for the past three years awaiting a time when we could use it without cutting out much more important copy. To whom we are indebted for it we do not know, but your club might like to use it in the coming year.

For the glory of the stars, the majesty of the mountains, the fertile fields and the vast oceans,
We thank Thee, O Lord.

For the changing seasons, the bountiful harvests, the blooming fields, and the songs of the birds,
We are grateful, O, Lord.

For the open fields, the fresh sod at our feet, and the peace which comes at the close of day,
We offer our thanks, O, Lord.

Open our eyes that we may see beauty in everything that Thou hast created,
We pray Thee, O, Lord.

As we remember Thy gifts of beauty, show us the ways in which we can help and make the world more beautiful,
We pray Thee, O, Lord.

As we think of beauty, show us the ways in which we can build beauty into our lives,
We pray Thee, O, Lord.

Now that the 1947 growing season is definitely past we can record a few final facts on its record performance. Many folks had chrysanthemums from their South Dakota gardens on Thanksgiving day, Mobridge and Highmore reporting; and Mrs. Tiffin of the Sioux Falls club made the columns of the Argus-Leader with her November blossoms. Mrs. C. N. Harrington, of Sioux Falls, had both calendulas and mums which kept beautifully on a cold porch until after December 1.

Congratulations to the Sioux Falls Garden Club on their fine large membership! Of the clubs which paid dues in November Sioux Falls led the roll with a 63 paid-up membership, the largest in the state. Dell Rapids was runner-up with 43, including a bona fide member who lives in Wallace, Idaho. Miss Edna Shreve had been a major factor in the club's success for so many years that when she moved she insisted on paying her dues to retain her active membership status. We are complimented! Other clubs have reported as many or more members at various times but failed to produce per capita dues for more when dues were due. Canton has a mighty fine start with 22. If your members are not all reported they miss out on the magazine until their dues go in to Mr. Simmons.

Here is a sample of the communion of spirit engendered by an interest in gardens and garden clubs. From Waukesha, Wisconsin, Mrs. John S. Engler has most generously sent us a copy of their Spring City Garden Club year book. This book won fifth prize in the National Horticulture contest, so we are very happy to add a copy to our files. The booklet portrays the Mexican theme, and programs on wild flowers, flower arranging, gourds and their big flower show all treat of gardening from the Mexican angle. However, the most interesting section of the book is that which paragraphs all the aims and accomplishments of their club year, and we could not keep from thinking how much more interesting our state contest would have been if all clubs had explained their projects fully. Judges have no way of knowing of your good community work unless you mention it. In commenting upon the Spring City booklet Horticulture editors said it would have won a higher prize if it had been still more comprehensive. You may borrow the booklet if you like, as it is well worth studying.

The Fair City Garden Club of Huron has a half column of fine newspaper publicity concerning their December meeting. sent to me by Mrs. G. R. McArthur. How many times have we urged the same kind of publicity upon you? Mrs. McArthur says: "It was a most delightful and informative meeting, with several new members present. We all have a very enthusiastic approach to our new organization." That is the spirit that carries all else before it. The program mentioned concerned a demonstration on making wreaths and door scarves, and table and mantle pieces by Mrs. Geo. W. Olson; and a talk on house plants by Mrs. Arthur V. Burger. Both speakers are valued members of the club because of their background of training and experience in their lines. Mrs. Olson attended a school of instruction in floral design and holds a diploma for proficiency in the work; while Mrs. Burger helps to operate a greenhouse in Huron. Perhaps these ladies can be prevailed upon to speak to other clubs.

Indirectly we hear that Yankton had a good meeting with Leonard Yager speaking on Landscaping the Home Grounds. Have you booked Mr. Yager for a talk at your club this year? He will be happy to come. and you will be more than glad you asked him.

Did you ever see a spring-happy year book? That is the only term we can think of to describe the new program of the Mobridge Garden Club. It has a spring-green color, spring pansies. and a spring-promise poem as a frontspiece. Those busy, busy people who make the wheels turn in so many organizations should be given a pat of appreciation once in a while as does Mrs. F. Briley for Mrs. Lowry. She says: "Mrs. Lowry is a very efficient president of the garden club. Besides teaching in Glenham a town about six miles from Mobridge—driving each day—she keeps house. directs a choir, and does a great deal of piano playing for various occasions, etc." Chrysanthemums raised by Mr. W. Catey were a grand success up there this fall. A fine program on lilies was given by Mrs. Geo. Crawford, with umbellatums and tigers being the hardiest for that locality. We suggested that they try some of the stenographer lilies developed at the Experiment Station at Ottawa, Canada. These are hybrids of umbellatums and elegans and were named for the different stenographers in the office. Since then we have received a note from Victor Ries who substantiates our theory that lack of success with lilies here is not due to lack of hardiness, or to the cold. He suggests the Princeps hybrids, Preston hybrids (from one of the stenographer lilies) and Havemeyer hybrid from seed; also several strains of Philippinese. This latter sown in January should bloom in September. Try it.

Clubs which do not meet in the winter months miss out on one of the happiest meetings of the year—the popular Christmas party, where gardening good fellowship flourishes at its best. Sioux Falls Garden Club members—evidently attracted by the aroma of Mrs. Tiffin's delectable pies—turned out 95% strong—and everyone had pie! Fruit for all the pies was from Mr. Simmons' own back yard. The Wednesday Afternoon Garden Club comes into the news again at this party when Mrs. L. B. Mitchell of that club read a "very, very interesting" paper on Bells of History. The bell theme was carried through the evening's program with roll call on bell flowers, the singing of Jingle Bells accompanied by the tinkle of little bells in the hands of the singers, and the story about a garden of bells included in Mrs. Mitchell's talk. Miss Elizabeth Keller, a favorite entertainer for this group, played the role of reader, and of Santa's helper to Mrs. Keck in the distribution of gifts. It took the election of four men to find one who could preside at their meetings this winter, for there seems to be a general exodus of officers during the next month. We are accustomed to bidding F. X. Wallner a fare-you-well from the club each winter, but vice president Roy Sherwood, and second vice president, Mr. Keck also decided to turn to summer skies for a while, so Mr. J. L. Severance was finally prevailed upon to serve as president pro-tem.

Did you ever hear of kissing balls? Or stars made of cocktail toothpicks? Or table centerpieces using plaster of paris as a base? Those were some of the novelties we would have enjoyed seeing at the demonstration of Christmas novelties put on by Mrs. S. N. Noyes of the Canton Garden Club. Probably the men are the only garden club members in the state who wouldn't be interested in such a program for it seems every woman is as avid for new ideas along these lines as we are. The 1½ hour demonstration would have been all too brief. We have the notes Mrs. Noyes sent us on file, but if you want details better write direct to Mrs. Noyes.

South Sioux Falls couldn't get along without Mrs. James Anderson at the helm so she was reelected president. Mrs. Harry Eckert is the new vice president, and Mrs. T. A. McFarlane is treasurer, according to our new correspondent and secretary, Mrs. Martin C. Johnson. She says, "The club adopted a constitution at the last meeting because we felt our organization was so up and coming that it needed a real foundation." Success is built on a firm foundation. Four new members were added to their roll.

We congratulate Mrs. Helen Field Fischer, Iowa's Flower Lady of the Air, upon the high honor bestowed upon her. Iowa garden clubs and friends from all over the mid-west clubbed together to give her a life membership in the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

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the yard. They are also reported to eat eggs and nestlings of smaller birds.

Nutcrackers are decidedly gregarious. They "show their relationship" to the jays by their noisy, boisterous habits, their inquisitive curiosity and their behavior on the ground, where they hop rather awkwardly about foraging for nuts and insects. Their straight forward flight, at times, is also much like that of our blue jay; and their thieving propensities are in keeping with those of the whole corvine tribe" Bent).

JOHN ROBERTSON—A Biography (I)

By
H. R. Woodward

H. R. Woodward

This article and any subsequent ones which will appear in this magazine on the life of John Robertson, is written at the special request of Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen and I am especially glad to do it. Many readers and many members of the Federation of Flower Clubs know little about the work of John Robertson. The presentation of Robertson Memorial Medal each year causes some to wonder who this man was. The basis for this material comes from "A Great Fruit Grower and His Contributions," copies of which are filed in the Hot Springs, S. D., public library, the library of South Dakota Horticultural Society at Sioux Falls, S. D., and in the library of the Dakota Farmer at Aberdeen, S. D. A brief sketch of his life appears in Vol. 19-1937 of "Who's Who in America." This was the year of his death and it has not appeared in any subsequent issue.

John S. Robertson, president of the South Dakota Horticultural Society from 1933-1935, was born of Scotch immigrant parents at Cleveland, Ohio, June 13, 1866. The family migrated shortly afterward to eastern Nebraska, where they settled in Dodge County and where John attended a rural school. His schooling was of short duration, however, and he was able to spend only a part of the winter months in school. He is what one would call a self-educated man. I have often heard him say that there are two types of education; one you get in school, and the other you get yourself through hard work and serious application.

John Robertson came to the Black Hills in 1889 as a laborer and worked for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad when it was building the first railroad into the Hills from Edgemont to Deadwood. During his leisure time he wandered over the hills and on one of his trips located a spring of clear cold water. This spring was the paramount factor in causing him to file on a homestead and the reason why the famous orchard is located where it is.

Robertson took up this tract of land in 1892 and started his first apples trees in 1896. During his early years he farmed some of the valley land and made some of his living by cutting pine logs on his place for stove wood and hauling it to market in town. His first years there were somewhat of a pioneer struggle, yet he had a philosophy that was hard to beat. I have heard him say, "Never worry about your pay or income. If you are interested enough in your work and do a good job, the world will see to it that you are paid for it." His apple trees did well and gradually increased in production until he devoted his entire time to his horticultural work. His crowning success came in 1933 when he harvested approximately 7,000 bushels of apples for market.

John's first efforts were frowned upon by many of the settlers in his section because they considered it a waste of time to even attempt to grow fruit in this sort of country where the annual rainfall was light, where the run-off was great, and where he would have to depend upon the rainfall for all the moisture his trees would ever get. Then too, his place was rocky and not thought suitable for apple trees because of the steepness of the slopes.

One of the main essentials in growing fruit trees, he always said, was plenty of moisture, so it was necessary for him to practice soil conservation and erosion control, as well as find some means of holding the moisture. In order to hold the moisture, it was necessary to terrace the hillsides and dig ditches so that water that fell in some of the impossible places would run into his orchard and be distributed to his trees. Some of the erosion barriers he built up were almost like dams and in going through the orchard one will note that every twig pruned from a tree was saved and thrown up as an erosion barrier. Packed in with his brush are layers of humus and eroded top soil.

One thing he learned early was that water is taken out of the soil faster and in greater amount by plants than it is by sun and wind. Therefore, in visiting his orchard you found no unnecessary plants of any description and you found perhaps more than the customary space allotted to each apple tree. As a consequence some of his apple trees planted more than fifty years ago are still producing their share of apples along with the others. It is true some have died but many are doing very well. The gavel used by the presiding officer at the annual meeting of the South Dakota Horticultural Society has been made by woodworking students in Hot Springs high school from apple wood which grew in the Robertson orchard nearly fifty years ago.

John also learned to prune his trees properly for the best service a tree could give in a semi-arid region. He grew his trees low to the ground

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IMPORTANCE OF WINDBREAKS

By
Dr. G. F. Will, Bismarck

DR. G. F. WILL

About ten days ago we had one of those particular winter days which seem to combine all the qualities which we most dislike in the winter season. It was a combination of zero temperature, leaden gray skies, and a biting, piercing wind. Altogether in the open it presented a wild and savage mood of mother nature. The powdery snow blew across river ice and smooth roads, looking like an upside down fog with obscurity close to the ground, clearing higher up. These gusts of ice particles skidded over the white surface of the river to disappear in the steam of the black, wind whipped waters of the open air holes. The sand bars under the wind exploded into occasional clouds of mixed sand and snow. The ice creaked and cracked while the cold, the bitter wind moaned through the leafless trees along the road, nor was there any sign of life in view.

I spoke of the importance of shelter the other day as recognized by every form of animal and plant life from the lowest to the highest. On this harsh, northern winter day, the importance of shelter was startlingly emphasized. Just a dozen steps from the open river bank into the nearby brush and timberland was like entering into a pleasanter world. The chilly wind was only a humming in the tops of the taller trees, and not a breath of it stirred the bare twigs of the dogwood and rose bushes. Chickadees called merrily among the willows and young ash trees while out in the open no sign of a living creature, not even a horned lark, was obserable. The snow lay smooth and level on the forest floor undisturbed by any wind and unmelted by sun's rays which reached it with much of their intensity screened out by the trees and shrubs above it. It is remarkable what intensity the winter sun has on a clear day. Even at five to ten degrees below zero an exposed south sloping bank or roof will often begin to run with melted snow. The shadowiness of the winter scene in the timber is also increased by the fact that the sun is circling way down to-

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BEEKEEPING NOTES

By
B. J. Ginsbach

B. J. Ginsbach

Have received word from Mr. Shearon, president of the S. D. Beekeepers Ass'n. that everything possible is being done to make the annual meeting, the biggest and best yet. The meeting will open at 10 a. m. Saturday, Feb. 21st, 1948 in the Community room of the County Courthouse at Mitchell, S. D. Already it has been arranged to have Mr. Glen Jones, Pres. of the National Federation, and Newman Lyle, of Sheldon, Ia., as guest speakers. An enjoyable and rapid fire program is being arranged, and it is expected that much will be accomplished. Arrange to be there and bring a non-member beekeeper with you. I think it would be well, in planning ones future operations, to recall to mind some of the major developments in the industry, since a few years back I imagine most of us thot there was nothing more to be learned, or discovered about bees. Since American Foul Brood has been the cause of our biggest, and let us say unnecessary expense in honey production, the discovery and developmet of queens who's brood is resistant to the disease, has been a remarkable and worth while contribution to the industry. In the past few years much has been written pro and con, as regards the feeding of sulfa drugs in the control of American Foul Brood. In all cases, without exception, the colonies showed improvement and in many cases a permanent cure was effected and remained clean until infected material was introduced to the brood nest, when the disease quite readily spread thruout the brood. This simple experiment would seem to disprove the main objection or bogy that sulfa merely hides the disease and that it would break out with renewed vigor at some future time. There needs to be done much more experimenting with sulfa as to the best and proper way of feeding same, and to find out what power, or action it has to enable the bees or brood to overcome and eliminate the germ or spores. But there is hardly any doubt that it has been a remarkable and worthwhile discovery and will play an important part in control, or eradication of loul Brood in the future. It would now be possible, with resistant queens, and some help with sulfa to keep bees successfully in a district saturated with infected material. Perhaps the most important and far reaching development, especially since the high value of bees as pollinizing agents has been recognized, is artificial insemenation of queens, together with the discovery that virgin queens can be fertilized by treatment with carbon dioxide. Within a few days after treatment with carbon dioxide, virgin queens begin egg laying. These eggs hatch out drones. This queen can be artificially insemenated from her own fatherless drones. This makes possible tight breeding, where favorable qualities can be established along different lines and then crossed with results comparable to those obtained in hybrid corn. So, in the not too distant future we may expect bees with tongues long enough to reach the nectar in red clover blossoms, and bees even more immune to American Foul Brood than those we have at present, with qualities such as gentleness, which a good many of those at present do not possess. Bees could be developed that might be much more valuable as pollinators of alfalfa. A long tongued bee, capable of gathering nector from red clover would add much to our total honey production as red clover is a wonderful yielder of nector and one of our best legumes for farm crop rotation. The seed could be more cheaply produced, with a consequent wider use of this wonderful legume and a great increase in bee pasture. The necessity of having bees present in the production of legume seeds, so necessary to general agricultural prosperity, is being recognized more and more. Our Government has spent millions of dollars in subsidies to increase legume seed acreage with small increase in production, and nothing of any permanent nature accomplished It is possible owing to the great amount of wealth a beekeepers bees add to our economy in their pollinizing work, for which at least in most cases at present, the beekeeper gets no return that he will be subsidized against loss, and instead of a 5 or 10 percent increase in colonies of bees, the Government may ask for 1 or 2 hundred percent increase. That would effect a permanent cure and assure the legume seeds which are needed to furnish the nitrogen which is absolutely necessary for agricultural prosperity. These discoveries and developments, together with the increased recognition by agriculture of the great value of bees to its continued prosperity, are wonderful incentives for further expansion in our operations and a good risk for the young man who wants to start a healthful and interesting business. So it is possible, in spite of short crops and other difficulties to see things to be thankful for in the new year and the promise of years to come.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. Wallner

F. X. Wallner

The Garfield Park Mum show was interesting as ever with the large section filled to overflowing with the latest in mums of all kinds and colors except blue; no blues as yet in Mums. The old white and yellow wild ones from China, in baskets, trailing on the grass in long garlands and cascades, are also all over, in large numbers; must be similar to the same wild ones we have here. The large potted plants with about 25 blooms, seem most popular, but the large single blooms, of course, are the center of attraction. I think the perfect bloom is Blazing Gold, a ball shaped yellow. In a book "Roses of the World in colors," Dr. N. E. Hansen and Mr. Skinner, of Dropmore, Man. Canada, are given credit for outstanding hardy roses. Nov. 18th. Today I transplanted into 3 large pots one Bama sprout and 2 Taro plants, received from the Garfield Park Superintendent. Other highlights, football games between two Parochial schools at Soldier's Field, with 31,000 excited, cheering fans. I also saw the Northwestern-Notre Dame game by television. While it was only a few miles away, in Evanston, the tickets were all sold out weeks ago, so taverns with television sets had good crowds. The lowly root crops, turnips, parsnips, carrots and beets are retailing here, (Chicago) for 20 cents per pound. Some people complained about our prices, 5 cents per pound or $2 per bushel, at the stand. About 88 more conventions will be held in Chicago during December, drawing about 58,000 people More than 800 farm boys and girls have 2,000 cattle, 78 hogs and 50 lambs on exhibit here this week. The International show is called a 5 million dollar show, and the biggest ever in the world, by the Scotch and English judges. I spent all of the first day, going from corn show to grain show, and to the big ring, where boys and girls and state judging teams, were going over horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. Really a big place and everyone busy, bathing, combing clean their pet stock. Canada will get their full share of everything as all of their exhibits are first class. By 4 p. m. the first day of judging they again took first in wheat, also most of the oat and barley prizes and almost a clean sweep in navy and field beans. Since 1919 Canada has been wheat king 21 times, Montana 4 times, Colorado once and Michigan once. Canada's top prize bushel weighed 67.7 pounds. Since 1926 the wheat has always been above 66 lbs. per bushel. Montana, Minnesota, North and South Dakota produce 93% of the Durham wheat of the nation. Far away Oregon got most of the prizes on white clover; North Dakota growers made a clean sweep in rye and alfalfa. North Dakota had more exhibits in corn and grains than all other Northwestern states combined, due to the fine advertising of the N. D. development Association, since 1919. Tennessee grows all white corn and three samples all had red cobs. There was a time when one red cob in white corn would disqualify the sample. Most all white entries in other states are still old varieties, open pollenated corn, such as Silver Mine and Silver King. The Peter Lux family has been corn king 4 times with Johnson county white; the Wm. Curry family 3 times with Reeds Yellow dent. Since 1939, most of top prizes has gone to yellow hybrids. Indiana growers have been corn king 22 times, Illinois 5 and Iowa 1. Competition is keen here, as much as stock of the nation comes here to be judged. There were 19 samples of corn placed first, 6 juniors with yellow, 6 whites, with Johnson County white corn looks as it might be tops but from these 19, Indiana was again king with a 894 D hybrid. I was interested in Sam Bober's red winter wheat and hoped to see a ribbon placed on it before I left as it was the only South Dakota entry I could see, but since then I see a corn and flax prize was won by S. D. growers. Most every state had soy bean entries and it will be close competition, with so many good samples so near alike. Just a crooked kernel or off color kernel would mean 3rd or 4th place, and the heavy samples would be tops. Wisconsin corn is all yellow except one white and one flint. These big long exhibits of wool, mostly from Michigan and Wyoming, some with two blue ribbons and two purple ribbons, on one bundle. Twenty samples of the best heads of milo, cane, sorgum and Kaffer I have ever seen. Canada also took most of the prizes in the 6 rowed barley. Two 600 lb. bulls, eating Washington hay in the morning, were grazing in Alaska pastures in the afternoon. No other fertilizer needed in your garden if you get Oregon grown hybrid earthworms and they do not migrate, but could they stand our cold, long winters? Of the following 21 fruits, 11 are classed as berries by botanists: Avocados, blackberry, blueberry, cherry, banana, chokecherry, cocoanut, cranberry, currant, date, fig, gooseberry, guava, loganberry, bulberry, orange, raspberry, strawberry, tomato, grade, garden huckleberry. No one at our Garden club meeting, had the cor-

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IRIS GLEANINGS

By

Rev. E. L. Jackson, Akrn, Iowa

E. L. Jackson

January will soon be here and our genial secretary will be looking for material for the January issue. So here goes, altho it does not look like Iris weather outside. We are grateful for the nice covering of snow that helps to spell hardiness and safety for our plantings. I have not covered any of my iris this year as yet for I like to see how they "can take it" and I seldom lose any varieties. I am glad that my soil here does not heave for that is one of the dangers to old plantings. I shall give my new plantings which are small but choice this year a light covering of excelsior or hay a little later on.

One of the jobs I did get done just before the snow came was to cut back the Buddleias and get them in shape to go thru the winter. They do not mind cold so much as they mind thawing and freezing weather. I have banked them with a layer of hay and on top of that a light covering of brush. Most people say they have tried the Butterfly Bush but lose them the first or second season. Mine kill back some but new bloom is on new wood and so that does not matter and I have yet to lose any plants altho we are on the border line of South Dakota and Iowa. People here say we get some of the best weather of each state and also some of the worst of both states. It's a little like Mobridge that way. For Mobridge gets all the bad storms of North Dakota and also some of the mean weather of western South Dakota. I think our climate is much better here for we often miss some of the early and late frosts of both states.

Have you ever had the joy of taking up mums when in full bud and having them open perfectly in the house? I moved mine first to a glassed in porch without heat on the north of the house and then inside as they opened. This Sunday, December 7, I had the last bouquet cut from two such plants; many of these blooms had wilted some but others were still fresh and colorful. I cut them back and moved to the basement yesterday where they will get a little water once or twice a month and then will be used for propagation in the spring.

Instead of counting the days till Christmas one can soon count the days till first spring bloom. Here that will come along toward the last of March when the Hepaticas waken to life with the first hint of spring. These eastern Mayflowers which are native to New York and New England are always about the first blooms of spring for country children and how welcome they are. We have a nice clump of them and each year we find a few new plants starting and they last for a long time. They will be followed by the very early Iris and these by Columbine and Meadow Rue and the Virginia blue bells that always do so well here. Along with these will come the bleeding heart and this seems right at home. When I came here I found a long box about 6 ft. or more, no bottom in it, and about 3 ft. in width. This I put in a corner on the south of the house with a porch on the east for shelter and filled with leaf mould and sand and garden soil in about equal proportions and how they have thrived. It takes the bleeding heart out of the wind and shelters it a little from storms and then underneath it the hepatics bloom better.

Alongside of the box I have some Iris, not Dwarfs, as I should have for it would have been an ideal spot for them, but intermediates and how these grow in such a spot. Near by are the lily plantings and a little farther along the plantings of Hemercollis. Day lillies to most people, but beautiful no matter what you call them. Some of mine are from Paul Cook and among them are some choice seedlings.

Just in back of them are a few late tall Iris, among these Sess's Sunny Days. This is such a wonderful yellow and a good bloomer. Alongside of this are a few seedling Spurias from seed I had from Dean Walster at Fargo. The foliage is especially fine altho the blooms are not so much. I notice that more and more people are growing the dwarfs and one does well to rremember the originations of Hillson Nurseries in western Kansas. Mr. Hill has done some very wonderful work with Areneria and Bloudwii altho neither of these do well in their hard climate but he replenishes his stock and keeps on crossing them. Of the two, Bloudwii does best for us here but Areneria misses the sand and doesn't need our heavy loam but it does persist but would be happier with more clay and sand. If you have such a spot remember these two, they came originally from the sandy plains of Hungary and mine came from Budapest years ago. Here where daffodils are not so sure they give me the yellow I need in my spring Tome picture. While I am thinking back, have you grown "Cream Tart" of Hills? It's such a dear seedling, I think of areneria, but

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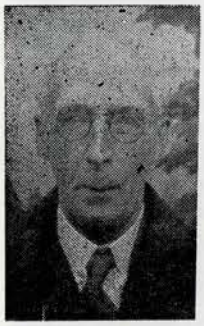
SECRETARY'S CORNER

By
W, A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

Some of our elder life members, seeming to think they had received more than ten dollars worth, from the Society, have got into the pleasant habit of sending in a donation for the Society's bank account. The latest to be received was a generous donation from Mrs. H. J. Taylor, of 900 Santa Barbara Rd. Berkeley, Calif. We would gladly give these members another long life membership, were it in our power, but now can say only thank you, and hope that you will be with us many more happy and useful years. Dr. Hansen has kindly supplied the following item: "Rhubarb protects teeth, Science News Letter finds that, many people find their teeth eroded by lemon juice, used too freely, for constipation and arthritis. But this is entirely prevented by adding one cup of rhurbarb juice to four of lemon juice. This is proven by recent experiments by Prof. C. M. McCay at Cornell University Nutrition Laboritory. Dr. Hansen adds: "More rhubarb juice should be bottled, and more rhubarb juice canned." While I have touched on this matter in this column before, another reminder will not hurt, and I think Dr. Hansen has a good idea for a good S. D. industry here. We can grow rhubarb by the quarter section here, and can can the juice as easily as the citrus belt cans orange, grapefruit, and the lemon juice which needs the rhubarb juice for what one might term an antidote for the destruction it causes to our teeth. A letter from Miss Edna Shreve, formerly of Dell Rapids, but now living in Wallace, Ida., tells of her new location, as follows: "I am less than two blocks from the mountains on three sides and only about five blocks, the other direction. Makes me feel so hemmed in, and now the sun is on the other side of the mountain and they say we will not see it again till late spring. It either snows or rains much of the time, but has not been cold, usually about freezing." Probably the party that arranged the mountains did not figure that some day a man would come along and want to put in a town there. It can't be heartening to live in a place where one would have to climb a mountain in order to get a sight of the sun, in the winter time. A little over a year ago, Mrs. C. W. Seabury, of Plainview, Neb., sent me cuttings of her double poinsettias. Blossoming last year, on short wood, they showed no difference in blossom from those I had always had, but with increased growth this year, the difference was very apparent. They seem to have another whorl of red leaves above the lower ones and make a great splash of beauty. This year I will use them entirely in propagating new plants. I use the 46 oz. juice cans to grow them in, which seems to be entirely satisfactory. I fill the cans nearly full with garden soil, then put the cans in water till the soil is thoroly saturated. Then I make a one inch hole in the soil, fill this with sand, and put the cutting in this hole. They root very slowly, and usually make quite a lot of top growth before much of any roots are produced. But with this system, one does not need to injure the roots by transplanting, and the roots are free to enter the good soil as soon as they have grown long enough. Most authorities advise to put the plants in a warm dark place, after they are thru blooming. I have not found this necessary, but keep them up in mild light, and let them resume growth when they desire to do so, cutting the plant back to the lowest bud that shows growth. To be sure, the lowest bud that starts growth is sometimes not as far down as I could wish, and the plants get pretty high before again blooming, but I have high ceilings here in the office, and can set the plants on the floor, when in bloom, and find the taller plants give the largest bloom. We hope you will all have had a very merry Christmas, and will have a happy new year and a sane 4th of July, and will drive so carefully that no fool you may meet will be able to put you in the ditch.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

(Continued from Page 5)

Amur Maple, botanically Acer ginnala, is the most valuable ornamental maple across the prairies, being abundantly hardy, graceful in form, clothed with narrow lobed leaves which display arresting shades of scarlet in autumn, and furnished with bright red fruits in summer. It may experience chlorosis where the soil is high in lime.

Tatarian Maple, like the Amur, is an esteemed hardy immigrant from the Orient. It is more of a tree than the Amur. Foliage is more ovate, being only slightly lobed, and turns yellow in autumn rather than red. However, the fruits become attractive red in August. Some trees at Morden are nearly 30 feet tall.

Anybody that undertakes to work with a man that ain't never made a mistake is makin' a mistake.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By
Dr. Carl Christol

Gardening provides many direct benefits as well as indirect ones. It is a big factor in lowering of prices and improves the diet. Whether eaten raw, cooked or canned vegetables and fruits, taken directly from the garden, are much superior to those days or weeks old, as they not only taste better but have a higher vitamin content. Your Federation president urges the members of Garden clubs to adopt as their slogan, "Twenty Million Freedom Gardens in 1948." There are hungry, starving, ragged, cold and homeless people in many parts of the world. Even with the best intentions and endeavors the American people will not be able to supply the many wants but we can help to decrease the suffering very materially. May we highly resolve here and now not only to have vegetable gardens ourselves, this year, but also to champion the cause of gardening in our local communities and our Sunshine state in general. The Garden clubs are peculiarly the organizations which should assume the leadership in this vast and benevolent undertaking. It is their pledge to carry and foster this project. As a matter of fact it is the understanding of the public that Garden clubs practice what they preach, that they assume the leadership in matters pertaining to gardening. It is up to them to increase the production and preservation of vegetables and fruits, and especially do we, in serious times like those of the present. Unless you follow thru and do what is expected of you your organization may possibly do more harm than good. Pres. Truman, Sec. Anderson and other leading citizens are asking for 20 million gardens in 1948. We naturally want to do more than our proportionate share in this humanitarian enterprise. We have the land, the tools, the seed, may we also have the will to do and to achieve. Asst. Sec. of Agri. Chas. F. Brannan calls attention to the obvious fact that additional vegetables will release more cereals to be sent abroad. Mr. Brannan says that "Every American must contribute." For those of us that can grow a garden there is no better nor important way. Whatever the cause of hidden hunger, it means lack of vigor, mental alertness, a high infant mortality rate and a low life expectancy. We are asked to help in the organization of junior garden clubs, and to work with the schools and interest children, in this emergency. Indeed our National Garden Institute is making medal awards, carry the fine head of that grand garden authority Liberty Hyde Bailey. This medal is widely bestowed upon young people for outstanding achievement in gardening. To quote Mr. Brannan again, "Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables would greatly improve the American diet and help to overcome one of its most common deficiencies. The accepted dietary pattern for adults calls for at least one serving of potatoes, two of vegetables and two servings of fruit per day. The diet of many Americans falls well below this standard." Fortunately we can raise vegetables and fruits ourselves. May all of us do the very best we can.

NEWSLANTS

(Continued from Page 3)

will not mean, of course, that these are recommended as the best varieties, but we do believe that they are some of the good ones and make a very nice garden.

As a parting shot, we will try to take Beebe's place in the poetry corner and wind up with this poem by Edgar A. Guest which has the title, "Apple Tree":

Of all the trees, it seems to me
The friendliest is the Apple tree.

Its laden boughs in early fall
Offer its treasures to us all.
Beside the road it seems to wait
Much like an old man at his gate.

Who nods and smiles as men appear
And always has a word of cheer.
Reach up and take the red fruit there
It acts as though it doesn't care.

If praises men speak, it seems to be
Delighted with their company.

If small boys come, with stone and stick
To storm the branches, fruited thick,
I'll swear its ways as gracious are
As grandma's at her cookie jar.

And that an apple tree enjoys
Such visits from the girls and boys.
Some trees there are which seem to frown
And live aloof with their renown.

But Apple trees appear to me
The friendliest of all to be.

I count myself a man completely out of debt. Don't owe a cent anybody stands a chance to collect.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.

IRIS GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 12)

with a spot of red jam on it just like a real tart. One has to have imagination in order to get the most out of Iris.

My new plantings look good this fall altho growth was not good during the summer months owing to lack of moisture (we only had 1.19 of rain in over 10 weeks) and they did not increase as they should. The fall rains did help to save them and I hope they have not suffered too much. From my '46 plantings I had wonderful bloom this past season. Among these were the following: Snow flurry, Winter carnival, Nightfall, Red amber, Copper rose, Red valor, Golden eagle, Caroline Burr, Coritica, Snow velvet, West Point, Flora Campbell and Marquita. Of these I liked Snow velvet for its husky growth and fine performance. It was in many ways our finest white.

These winter months ahead are good months to get your catalogs and go over the records and plan for finer bloom in the years ahead. Unless one dreams and charts and plans and reads and rereads one's notes taken in the patch one is not apt to go far but now is the good time for mental spade work. I carefully chart my plantings and then take notes in the field each year and read and study them to see where I am weak. It's also a good time to reread the Iris Society Quarterlies and do a little thinking along with leading growers about the trends in plant breeding.

A happy New Year to all of you and may it be a year of good bloom of real work and many anticipations realized. Try also to spread to others the results of your study and share a bulb now and then or trade with some one whose judgment you trust. The best of plant growing comes from the friends one makes over the garden hedge. I have trouble keeping my hedge low enough. I want to shut out the winds and get a background but I don't want to be exclusive or proud, for after all we are very common folks and like people.

JOHN ROBERTSON

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and spreading, for a low heading tree type would be least affected by the hot sun and winds and at the same time be more easily sprayed and more aicessible to the fruit-pickers. He learned also that the trees of such habits of growth would thus produce earlier and live longer. This sort of work and observation is typical of the type of research he carried on all his life.

(To be continued in February)

IMPORTANCE OF WINDBREAKS

(Continued from Page 9)

ward the southern horizon and the shadow of every plant, bush and tree is lengthened out to many times the height of the object which casts it.

On a cloudy day there is a sort of bluish shade to the snow and even the atmosphere among the trees has that tinge, which perhaps serves to accentuate the stillness all about, so different from the rustling, crunching, whispering sounds of the fall when there is no snow and the plants are still divesting themselves of their summer garb. Far away among the huge trunks of the old cottonwoods comes the unmusical note of a pheasant cock and as we move in its direction suddonly there is an eruption all around us, snow flies, and a half dozen gaudy-pheasant cocks are in the air all at once. As the woods get deeper the climate seems to grow milder, ear laps are no longer needed, in fact the cap itself comes off, jacket and sweater are opened, gloves come off and in spite of all that, perspiration begins to flow. Thoughts of a snug and cozy little log cabin, hidden among trees, with a fireplace and a nice pile of dry ash or diamond willow stacked at the door, run through the mind alluringly, of bright moonlight shining down through the bare trees, while white owls flit among branches and rabbits dance in tramped out dance floors in the snow. In such sheltered spots the harshest of winter is tempered and changed.

"SWEET SUDAN" GRASS

Inquiries have been received about the so-called "sweet sudan" now being used in some places. This is a new variety developed by the Texas Experiment Station, and is a cross between sudan and a variety of sorghum. It is still grassy, but has a sweet juicy stem, is resistant to disease, and its seed does not shatter. Some livestock men think it may become a better mid-summer pasture than the present sudan.—Prairie Farmer.

A brand-new shovel was swiped from Sledge Wicup's place Saturday night. He says he knows it wasn't none of his neighbors, because all of them is too dang lazy to want a shovel.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

(Continued from Page 11)

rect answer, a good subject for other Garden clubs.* That Oklahoma boy that got first with his 1100 lb. steer, sure was the lucky lad. It cost him $75 and sold at auction for $8 per pound, $8,800, but the sad part, to see the big number of calves that had to be weeded out and did not even get into the show ring. For many boys and girls the show was a sad affair. When you get the new 1948 calendar, better check Aug. 10, 11 and 12 at once, as those are the dates of the S. D. State Horticultural convention, here at Sioux Falls, and the 3 local Garden clubs here are planning on the best meeting possible. "There are a number of quack turkey surgeons around this town," said the host at Chicago, on Thanksgiving day, "but I usually know my bird." The lady of the house insisted that he do the carving at the table (for 8). He gave us a history of the bird while running the blade over the steel several times. Then he laid them alongside the platter. Then he got out 3 new single-edge razor blades, a hacksaw, a pair of long nozed pliers, a pair of tin snips, an old butcher knife and a big spoon. All this time he kept up a cheerful chatter about the Mexican bird and other feast days, to divert us from the proceedings. He got hold of the left hind leg just below the thigh, cut the hemstitching down th bird's middle with the tin snips, then cut huge slices with the butcher knife as far as he could, using the hacksaw from there on. From long years of habit I asked him for the wing, "There are no wings; you mean the front leg." This was a harder proposition, calling for the razor blade down aways, then a sharp left turn when he hit the joints, here the hacksaw again. He just kept going until all 8 were served and the bird was dismantled down to the chassis. What a meal, and plenty left over for turkey hash. The highest priced onion at 12 cents per pound brot 32 cents, grown in Idaho. *The 11 berries are blackberry, blueberry, cranberry, currant, gooseberry, loganberry, mulberry, raspberry, strawberry, garden huckleberry and chokecherry.

GARDEN NOTES

(Continued from Page 4)

available, a display of Christmas roses imbedded in moss and ferns, children who could reach all kinds of inaccessible places would be in especial demand. The church pulpit was fitted with an iron bracket supporting a candlestick holder, the stem of which our kindly vicar would sometimes grasp, when warming to his subject and round which on one occasion, my sister in a moment of impish frolic twined a spray of holly; fortunately for her the denouement never materialized. All the participants in these merrymaking now sleep in the silent city. The last to go was a favorite cousin who was also one of our members. Nov. 22nd. With snow still falling, blowing and drifting and temperature hovering around zero or below, one becomes resigned to the inevitable, which appears to be a long winter. Radio tells of ice closing in Gulf of St. Lawrence and residents of the Magdalene Islands making their last contact with civilization and the mainland, laying in supplies for 6 months, as the ice does not go out until late May and being in a continual state of move during the winter, cannot be crossed. However, there are advantages, being without mail for that period, they are not plagued with unwanted circulars and papers. Here indoors the bright red salvia, a seedling that I potted up in September, comes into flower; one of the best because continuous.

Violent exercise after 40 is especially harmful if you do it with a knife and fork.—The Earthworm.

A steer will eat his weight in grass every 7 or 8 days, but many insects such as crickets or grasshoppers do that stunt several times every day.—Maryland News Letter.